



SR 12 Safety Progress

State Route (SR) 12 from Suisun City to Rio Vista continues to see improvements in travel safety as Caltrans moves forward on two specific projects. Travel with caution as construction progresses on this corridor.

SR 12 Roadway Rehabilitation Project:

The objective is to repair failed pavement, reinstall recent improvements, and extend ground-in rumble strips to enhance safety along SR 12 from Scandia Road to Currie Road.



The repaired pavement will improve the ride quality for motorists and improve corridor mobility. The 8-foot standard shoulders will provide refuge areas for emergency vehicles, and road profile will provide drivers with standard vertical stopping sight distance. The project will provide exclusive turn pockets for making left-turns at the local intersections.

Construction on this stretch of roadway began in January 2009 and is scheduled for completion in October 2011.

SR 12 / I 13 Improvements - Caltrans Photo

SR 12 Accident Reduction Project:

The project is designed to reduce accidents and minimize accident severity involving fixed objects, and provide a clear recovery zone off the roadway between Azevedo Road and Liberty Island Road. This process involves removing trees to widen the shoulders, correcting the vertical curves to meet the stopping sight distance for a 55 mph design speed, constructing left-turn pockets, and installing a 6" asphalt overlay. Caltrans is in the process of obtaining environmental clearance, and following necessary right-of-way acquisition expects to start construction by mid-2012.

Both projects are funded through the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP). ☼



SR 12 Construction - Caltrans Photo

Jameson Canyon Widening on the Horizon

The collaborative planning and design efforts of the Solano Transportation Authority, the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency, and Caltrans will soon be realized with the widening of SR 12 through Jameson Canyon from I-80 to SR 29. The highway has experienced increasing congestion from growth in the surrounding areas, and now carries over 35,000 vehicles per day. The widening brings congestion relief through 6 miles of new lanes in each direction, upgrading the highway from 2 to 4 lanes.



SR 12 Aesthetic Retaining Wall Treatment - Caltrans Photo

The project is an engineering achievement, with 11 separate retaining walls totaling 2.5 miles. The aesthetic walls simulate a rock pattern that naturally blends into the hillsides, similar to those recently constructed near Red Top Road. In the narrowest part of the canyon, there will be a three-tier wall over 110 feet tall, with two waterfalls built into the retaining wall system to provide a route for seasonal rainfall to traverse under the roadway to reach Jameson Creek.

Motorists will benefit from the safety enhancements, including standard shoulder widths and a barrier separating opposing traffic. A U-turn refuge area near the Napa-Solano County line allows even the largest trucks to safely make U-turns midway between Route 29 and I-80. Bicyclists are welcome with dedicated Class II bike lanes that are signed and striped for safety, including warning rumble strips installed along the inside edges of the bike lanes.

With sensitivity to the rich environment of Jameson Canyon, openings in the median barrier and an undercrossing at Jameson Canyon Creek allow animals to safely cross the highway. Final design incorporated avoidance to sensitive wetlands within the canyon.

Caltrans is currently securing permits and expects to award construction contracts in Fall 2010, with groundbreaking scheduled in early 2011. The project is primarily funded by Proposition 1B passed by voters in 2006, with additional support from State and local transportation funds. ☼

Planning to Make SR 12 Better

All of the work happening on SR 12 for the last few years, and going on for the next few, is a good start to making the entire SR 12 corridor between I-80 and I-5 a safe and efficient route for travel. A good start, but there is more to come.

The question arises – how much more work is needed? The answer is not clear, but the process for coming up with the answer is. STA and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOC), working together with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), are conducting a study of SR 12 from I-80 to I-5. Some of the topics to be addressed in the study are:

- *How much traffic is expected on the roadway over the next 25 years? Will the current 2-lane configuration handle that traffic? If not, will strategically-placed improvements like turn lanes be enough, or will the entire roadway have to be 4 lanes?*
- *If the roadway is widened, what should be done with the 3 drawbridges (across the Sacramento River, Mokelumne River and Potato Slough)?*
- *What sort of environmental impacts would improvements to the roadway have? How would a rise in the sea level impact the roadway?*
- *How much would any of these improvements cost?*
- *What work should be done first?*



When the elected officials in Solano, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties receive the final study, they will have to address a number of competing priorities: improved traffic flow, safety improvements, impact to the Delta and threatened species is examples of the sorts of trade-offs that may be faced, and how to fund whatever work is to be done is always a challenge. Currently, we don't have all of the data needed to answer these questions.

We also don't have enough public feedback, and that is also a part of the study process. Caltrans, STA and the SJCOC will be hosting a series of meetings along the SR 12 corridor to provide information and ask for opinions.

Over the next year or so, watch the STA and SJCOC websites for information on reports that are being released and meetings that are being held. Help us make SR 12 a safe and convenient travel corridor everywhere it goes. ☼

SR 12 Steering Committee

The SR 12 Steering Committee was tasked by the STA Board to identify additional safety improvements and options for funding, and increasing public awareness of the safety concerns on SR 12. The members of the Committee are:

Jan Vick, Chair (Mayor, City of Rio Vista)
Harry Price (Mayor, City of Fairfield)
Pete Sanchez (Mayor, City of Suisun City)
Jim Sperring (Supervisor, Solano County)
Mike Reagan (Supervisor, Solano County)

Driving Tips to Stay Alive!!

Don't forget these 5 safe driving tips:

- **Don't drink and drive!**
- **Don't cross the double yellow line.**
- **Be visible.**
- **Focus on driving.**
- **Watch your speed.**

Reduce Your Speed – the speed limit on SR 12 has been reduced to 45 mph from just east of Suisun City to Currie Road. The lanes are narrower, visibility is reduced, and construction and equipment is right next to the travel lanes. Drive slower – it's safer, and it's the law.

Be Ready to Stop – Most of the work is to the side of the road, but sometimes equipment and personnel cross into the travel lanes. Where this is a possibility, the contractor has flagmen to control the flow of traffic. When you are in the construction area, watch for the flagmen or for slowing or stopped traffic.

Cell Phone Users - Program CHP Dispatch into your speed dial: **707-551-4100**.
Call to report reckless drivers you witness while driving.



Next Meeting:

June 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

Suisun City Hall



SR 12 STATUS

is published by:

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Suisun City CA 94585
707-424-6075

www.solanolinks.com

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For up-to-date information on ongoing activities to improve safety on SR 12, go to the STA website:

www.solanolinks.com